

LISTERIOSIS

Listeriosis is a bacterial disease usually manifested as meningoen­cephalitis and/or septicemia in newborns and adults and as abortion in pregnant women. Onset of meningoen­cephalitis may be subacute but is usually sudden and accompanied by fever, intense headache, nausea, and vomiting. The immunocompetent host who acquires infection may exhibit only an acute, mild, febrile illness, sometimes with influenza-like symptoms. Sporadic cases and occasional epidemics result from foodborne transmission, raw or contaminated milk, soft cheeses, vegetables, and ready to eat meats like pat .

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes* from a normally sterile site (e.g., blood or cerebrospinal fluid or, less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid).
- Microscopic examination of CSF or meconium permits presumptive diagnosis.

| | 1998 | 1999 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|
| Number of Cases | 8 | 5 |
| Rate per 100,000 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Rate by Gender | | |
| Female | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Male | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Age Groups | | |
| 12 weeks and less (infants) | 3 | 1 |
| 66 to 86 years of age | 5 | 4 |

All cases were in the above two agegroups.